

Darebin Women's Sports Club Incorporated

Annual Report 2019



ABN: 28780574660

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Darebin Women's Sports Club 2019 Board

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Board Member – General	Kristin Stensholt

President's Report

In my second year as President, I couldn't be more in awe of the Darebin Falcons community. From the players, to family and friends and volunteers, your contribution is so invaluable to this Club and I'm so proud to be a part of it.

2019 was another huge year. The values of the Club continue to get stronger which is evident by some of the amazing events we managed to put together this year including the VFLW Pride Round and NAIDOC Rounds, our involvement in the outstanding Holy Trinity Pride Match, which saw some of our senior cricketers back on the pitch for what was a victorious reunion. We also held a spectacular Pride Round dinner which featured Club legends Patty Kinnersley, Julia Chiera and Darcy Vescio. The list goes on and on.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in each and every Club event or activity that we get off the ground.

I'd like to make special thanks to the 2019 Board whose tireless work makes the Club tick over and get programs like these up and running. I'd also like to thank them personally for the support they have shown me throughout the year.

A huge thank you also needs to go out to our 2019 sponsors. Special thanks to the Darebin City Council who continue to support us with our current partnership and our major sponsor Activ8me. I'd also like to thank Apprenticeship Support Australia, Meridian Communications, Melbourne Joinery, YMCA Northcote, Welcome to Thornbury, Thornbury Horticulture and Design and CH James. We couldn't run this Club without your support.

In 2019, we had over 750 registered women and girls playing sport. This makes us one of the largest female multi-sport Clubs in the country. Next year sees us celebrate our 30 year anniversary. The absolute sheer will, hard work and determination that the women who founded the Club showed nearly 30 years ago cannot be forgotten and will be celebrated in style next year. I'm so glad that their legacy can live on and hundreds of young girls now have the opportunity to play the sport they love in such a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Women's sport continues to grow and I'm so proud to be a part of a Club absolutely leading the way.

Here's to a fantastic 2019 and an even better 2020.

Sarah Brady
President
Darebin Women's Sports Club

Treasurer's Report

Danielle Jacobson

Treasurer

During the 2018 – 2019 financial year the Falcons have made positive headway to financial sustainability. Our partnership with Nagle Accounting has supported us to implement a more thorough accounting and budgeting system, improve process and ensure the level of transparency and reporting required from a GST registered organisation.

At the end of the 2017-2018 financial year DWSC reported a \$28,909.05 loss. Unfortunately, this did not include a number of costs related to the 2018 season that came through after the end of the financial year and thus impacted our 2018-2019 budget. The extent of these losses did not become apparent until after the implementation of our improved accounting and budgeting system.

Despite \$54,553.67 expenses carried over from the 2018 season the club has managed both costs and cash flow to end the 2018-2019 financial year with a \$17,150.65 loss. This is a significant improvement on the previous year and indicates that the club can operate at profit in future.

Profit and Loss for year ending 31 October 2019

Account	2019
Income	
AFL Masters	4,021.54
Fees - Soccer	63,426.22
Fees - Cricket	934.69
Fees - Community AFL	35,895.31
Fundraising & Events	54,743.29
Grants & Partnerships	86,755.36
Falcons Academy	9,307.86
Canteen	23,899.61
Membership	1,350.67
Merchandise	17,630.42
Uniforms	5,580.31
Sponsorship	54,862.85
Total Income	358,408.13
Gross Profit	358,408.13

Expenses	
2018 Year Costs	54,553.67
AFL Masters	5,430.00
Canteen Stock	5,667.09
Community AFL	40,537.00
Cricket	69.55
Event Costs	39,676.09
Facility Management	17,229.90
Falcons Academy	5,280.56
Merchandise	13,965.10
Other	2,081.50
Marketing	3,931.50
Soccer	28,265.65
VFLW	158,871.17
Total Expenses	375,558.78
Net Profit	(17,150.65)

Senior Footy Report 2019

Alison Smirnoff

Head of Senior Football

For the third consecutive year, the Darebin Falcons' senior football program successfully fielded three senior teams; our VFL Women's team, and our Division 1 and Division 2 teams in the Northern Football Netball League. Across the three teams we had close to 110 active senior players for the 2019 season.

VFL

Senior Coach Michael Ericson led the VFL Women's team and he was well supported by Assistant Coaches Julia Chiera, Shevaun Hogan and Sarah Hammond, plus Development Coaches Kate Tyndall and Matthew Skubis. Once again, we had a new-look VFL Women's squad with some 16 players making their Falcons' VFLW debuts. After a slow start, we finished with four wins for the season and saw great improvement right across the team.

Some significant game milestones punctuated the season for a few long-time Falcons. Georgia Hammond and Kathleen Roe celebrated their 100th games, while Lauren Arnell and Elise O'Dea each notched up their 200th games. All four players have been magnificent servants of the red, white and blue.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the season was our superstar ruck, Lauren Pearce, being awarded the 2019 Lambert-Pearce Medal; the player adjudged the best and fairest in the VFL Women's competition. On top of this honour, Lauren was also named Captain and starting ruck in the VFL Women's Team of the Year and took out the Falcons' VFLW Best and Fairest Award.



We would also like to congratulate the four Falcons who were recently drafted to AFL Women's clubs at the 2019 NAB AFL Women's Draft. Nell Morris-Dalton, Annalyse Lister, Sarah Sansonetti and Gabby Colvin were drafted to the Western Bulldogs, GWS Giants, Richmond and Melbourne respectively. It is a brilliant reward for effort and the club is so proud to have helped them realise their AFLW dreams.

At the end of the VFL Women's season, Michael Ericson stood down from the Senior Coach role and the club would like to thank him for all his hard work and his outstanding contribution to Darebin's VFLW program over the last 12 months.



NFNL

In the Northern Football Netball League, Elise Casamento took over the reins as the Division 1 Head Coach. New to the club in 2019, Susan Cadman joined Elise as the Division 1 Assistant Coach. They proved to be a fantastic coaching duo as they galvanised the team and had them finish the home and away season in third place with nine wins. The team had a successful finals campaign, making it all the way to the preliminary final. Congratulations to Tamara Olcorn who was awarded the NFNL Division 1 Coaches MVP award and the Falcons' Division 1 Best and Fairest. Tamara, Karmen Wong and Caitlyn Jeffress were also all named in the NFNL Division 1 Team of the Year.

In our third season of fielding a Division 2 team, long-time Falcon Emily Campbell took over as playing Head Coach. Emily did an outstanding job as a first-time coach with the team finishing the home and away season in third place on seven wins. The team also returned to finals action where Eltham narrowly defeated them in the elimination final. Congratulations to Susan Cadman who claimed the Falcons' Division 2 Best and Fairest award and also to Nikita Magriplis and Kristin Stensholt who were named in the NFNL Division 2 Team of the Year.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank all our off-field support staff and volunteers. It takes the contributions of many to be able to field three senior teams each week and I would particularly like to thank Jeremy Weeks, Tyson Deane, Mitch Casey, Sarah Cheong, Emily Heyden, Sam Pinnington, Kelly Farrell, Stephanie Christopher and Michaela Ronke for their hard work throughout the year. You have all gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Player's families also play an important role when it comes to off-field support and I would like to make an extra special mention of Wendy Pearce and David Honybun who assisted as VFLW match day volunteers right throughout the season.

As 2019 draws to a close, the club is looking forward to season 2020 (our 30th year!) and building on the many foundations we have put in place.



Junior Footy Report 2019

Nat Kitzelman – Junior Foot Coordinator

Julie Boffa – Head of People and Culture & Auskick

For the second year we fielded teams in each of the Junior divisions. With the addition of the Falcons' Masters team to our existing teams - it means the Falcons have a complete pathway for girls from Auskick to Under 18's, to the senior NFNL program, VFLW and Masters. Amazing!

This year the junior program had about 140 registered players, as well as a super keen group of 20 youngsters in our all girl Auskick program. Each year brings new enthusiastic parents so hopefully we will see more volunteers to keep the club improving and growing.

At the start of the year we had great numbers for each age division except U14, where we were just short. With many local clubs adding girls' teams, it is a widespread challenge to fill teams. We were approached by West Preston Lakeside to undertake a merge, and after much deliberation decided to go ahead with it - to enable all the girls to play. We learnt a lot from managing the merge, but are very happy to see the numbers looking strong for pure Falcon teams in 2020.

- Auskick – great skill development and high energy from our youngest Falcons, with a highlight being the Friday night, half time grid game at the MCG
- U10s - amazing improvement and much enthusiasm over the season.
- U12s - After drawing the higher division for their age group, the U12s always rose to the challenge and showed huge growth in tackling pressure and attack.
- U14s – merge – successful year for a high number of first time footy players!
- U16s - Well done to the U16s on the great achievement reaching the finals, disappointing to lose in a golden point finish



U18s Youth Girls – For the tenth consecutive year our U18s team reached the Finals, and won the NFNL U18 Premiership! Congratulations to the team and coaches on a fantastic season and premiership.

It was the last year in the youthies for quite a few ‘top agers’. We hope to see them continue in the senior Falcon teams.



It was great to have the VFL and Senior Falcon women support the juniors by attending some training sessions, team dinners and jumper presentations. Special mention and thanks to VFLW captain Steph Simpson who was instrumental in this. The players especially love the social nights and you can see they are inspired to hear from the senior players. Thanks also to Div 1 players Sabine Cowley-du Parquet, ably supported by Susan Cadman, who ran the Auskick program and were much loved by all the girls.

We also held a Social Media awareness session for our U14s, and an Apprenticeship Support Australia information night with the U18 girls. We aim to provide our players with social and leadership skills through the club.

Several players received NFNL awards/recognition:

- NFNL U16s Girls Red B&F – 4th Mia Haas, 6th Mia Beki , 7th Beatrice McDonald.
- NFNL U18s B&F – 1st Stephanie Elarmaly, 8th Gabby Cleeman. Steph was also leading goal kicker of the NFNL U18’s division for the second year running!
- School Sports Australia Comp, Victorian U15 Girls Team – Mia Haas
- NFNL U15 Representative Player – Tahlee Thompson
- NAB League Players – Peppa Poultney (Calder Cannons, U16 Vic Metro), Ashleigh Snow, Gulia Ceravolo, Tallia Pulcino, Maeve Chaplain (all Northern Knights)

Congratulations to all of these players on an amazing season!



We had a fantastic group of coaches on board to help run the program. Thanks to all coaches and team managers for their hard work, dedication and time in 2019.

- **U18's** Coach Mat Poultney, assisted by Sarah Brady, Team Manager Jennifer Elarmaly
- Mat Poultney received NFNL Youth Coach of the Year Nomination
- **U16's** Coach Troy Thompson, assisted by Brad Hill, Team Manager Anastasia Gabriel
- **U14's Merged Team** DWSC – Assistant Coach Nikki Clare Team Manager Deb McCleary
- *WPL - Coach Dave Snow assisted by Frank, Team Manager Marylene Curcio*
- **U12's** Coach Mike Frencham, Assistant Coach Liam Stephens Team Managers Jacinta and Sarah
- **U10's** Coach Patrick Healy, assisted by Adam McKay, Team was managed by the coaches.



Thanks also to the trainers, volunteers, runners, umpire escorts, boundary & goal umpires, timekeepers, canteen workers and sausage sizzlers, who are essential to running our Junior program! Special mention to Nikki and Deb and all of the U14 families for juggling the merge.

Looking forward to a fantastic Falcons Junior Footy season in 2020!



2019 Junior & Senior Soccer Report

Jasmine Hirst

Junior Soccer Coordinator & Vice President

2019 – a milestone year

When we began the junior soccer program back in 2011 we only dared to dream that one day the 4-9 year olds in our first clinic, would one day play for our senior Falcons team. In 2019 this became a reality and our first complete team of players who had progressed through our junior program, went up from Under 16s to compete at the senior level. This significant event means that we now have a complete and travelled pathway from juniors up through to seniors.

Participation

2019 was another year of growth in the soccer programs at the Falcons. We finished the season with a total of 448 registered players in 25 teams (23 junior, 2 senior) and a large Miniroos Kick Off Program of 85 girls.

We also had around 35 soccer mums who participated in one or more of the 3 soccer mums programs we ran throughout the season. A huge thank you goes to Merissa Van Setten who coordinated and delivered this very popular program.

2019 Program Focus

In 2019 we made a concerted effort to focus on two strategic areas:



1) Individual Player development – providing players with additional opportunities to develop their skills and challenge themselves.

2) Development of junior players (Under 12 and up) into non-playing roles such as coaching, officiating and administration.

We saw a lot of success in both of these key areas and will be looking to build on them in 2020.

Recruitment Activities

Our main 'Come and Try' event was part of the Darebin Falcons Community Day in 2019 and we had around 100 Soccer participants both current and new players at this event.

As well as giving players and opportunity to try out the club, we



used this event for several of our U14 & 16 players to try out coaching, with seven of these players then going on to take up regular coaching roles with the MiniRoos Kick Off Program and a number of others providing casual assistance.

Football Victoria 2019 Season

21 Junior Soccer Teams took part in the FFV 2018 season, four Under 9s, five Under 10s, four Under 11s, three Under 12s, five Under 14s and two Under 16s. We also had two senior women's team competing in Women's State League 4 and State League 5.

There were a variety of results across the leagues, and throughout the teams Under 12 and up, where results are counted, we had 2 teams finish as runners up in their league (Under 12 Kangaroos & 13/14C Red) and one finish as league champions (13/14B Purple).

Two team competed in finals series with Under 12 Kangaroos being knocked out in the semi final of the Metropolitan league (5-4 on penalties) and the 13/14B finishing as Runners up in the Metro Final (1-0).

Coaches & Assistants

Julian Delahunt	Dave Curwood	Dave Nolan	Fiona Maguire
Scott Baker	John Ormandy	Conor Flanagan	Spencer Tennant
Nik Filips	Dan Barron	Joe Baruzzo	Anna Kelly
Jane Holroyd	Libby Chow	Luke Lay	Chris Hotham
Martin Pradel	Dave Park	Trent McCarthy	Gareth Eldrige Cameron
Abbey Bowland	Matt Kehle	Emma Sampson	Schmelitscheck
Nick Barbousses	Michael Vampatella	Ray Marsh	Tak Troung
Davide Codini	Ivo Pes	Vince Fruci	Matt Smith
Mereki Nieman	Emmanuel Natalizio	Tom Howie	Emily Boyle
Amelie Park	Lina Kaliva	Merissa Van Setten	Mark Sinton
Amelia Ormandy	Scarlett Ormandy	Finn Bradshaw	Lillah Summers-Dixon
Matthew Papachristodoulou	Darren Kronk	Wael Atwa	Jane Costello
Jill Murphy	Duncan Cole	Rebecca Duffy	Tracy Masur
Sumaya Atwa			

Team Managers

Rebecca Mayo	Simon Perotta	Michael Pummell	Georgina Natalizio
Jayne Crowley	Meaghan Block	Sue Curwood	Mark Scruby
Shanaugh Lyon	Rachel Bodan	Arran Whitehouse	Geri Bisnuth
Andrew Brown	Shelley Brown	Kristina Yanyuli	Vanessa Parbhoo
Kirsty Althorp	Darren Kronk	Kim Schell	Jo Bradley
Joe Coleman	Brigid Maher	Fyda Kahlil	

Individual Award Winners – Junior Soccer

Individual awards are made to players in teams Under 12 and above. The awards for the 2019 season were as follows:

	Best and Fairest	Coaches Award	Most Improved	Player's Player
U12 Joeys Red	Kendra Costi	Ada Breach	Elinor Hastings	Elena (Bobbi) Cooke
U12 Kangaroos Purple	Giulia Codini	Mataya Cairns	June Dibble	Mackenzie Runciman
U12 Wallabies White	Mila David	Audrey Boyle	Isabelle Catchlove	Lucia Negrelli
13/14D Purple	Holly O'Connor-Smith	Saraya Hamoui-Asquini	Emmy Zohrab	Johanna McBride
13/14D Red	Amelia Sureda	Sasadi Jayalath	Isabella Le Plastrier	Zoe Hayman
13/14C Red	Evie Raymond	Hannah Brown	Jasmine Donaldson	Olivia Gembarovski
13/14C White	Olivia Baruzzo	Scarlett Nassig, Niamh Geary	Sumaya Atwa	Emily Boyle
13/14B Purple	Helena Petrou	Amelia Salvatore	Tess Kounelakis	Helena Petrou
15/16C Blue	Tilda McGowan	Isabelle Bolt Gardener	Aya Cairnes	Katerina Poupounaki

Coach development

In February we hosted a Skills Training Certificate Course for coaches of 9-13 year olds. Thirteen coaches took part. In May we hosted an Aldo MiniRoos Certificate Course for coaches of 4-8 year olds, Eight coaches took the course.

MiniRoos Game Leaders

The MiniRoos Games require the home club to supply a Game Leader and throughout the season there were a number of volunteers for each team. We thank them all for their assistance.

We continued with number of older players (12 years and up) taking on the Game Leader role for the MiniRoos teams and are still hoping to be able to formalise a program for this in 2019 and provide some incentive for these players to get involved. We will be looking for a sponsor or some donor/grant opportunities to get this up and running.

Skill Acquisition Program

In 2019 we ran two additional SAP sessions for Under 10s and 11s in addition to their once a week training. SAP is an optional extra night a week training for 10-12 year olds to take advantage of this phase of growth and development where the players are most receptive to developing the core skills of first touch, running with the ball, striking the ball and 1 v 1.

The SAP Program provided players with an excellent opportunity for skill development with a mixed group, outside their normal team. Participants enjoyed the extra sessions and developed their skills. We will be keen to run the SAP program again in 2020 or what ever it's replacement may be.

Tournaments

In 2019 players had the opportunity to take part in a number of tournaments.

- Summer 7s
- Anthony Condello Cup (Under 12 Champions, Under 11 Runners Up) March 2019
- Girls FC Under 12 Runners Up and Under 12 Plate Runners Up & Under 16 Runners Up, March 2019
- FV Under 12 Cup – 2 teams in top half, one semi finalist.
- Maccas City Cup – Under 12 Group Runners up, July 2019
- Brighton All Girls MiniRoos – 3 teams participating
- Heritage Cup 3 teams participating
- Victoria Community Cup 2 teams participating.



These tournaments, additional to the regular FV season, provided a great opportunity for players of different teams to mix, experience different coaches and develop their skills further. We will continue to encourage players to be involved in these events in future.

Clinics

As part of our Player Development Focus, we worked with a number of program deliverers to provide additional skill development opportunities for our players. We hosted an Elite Female Football Clinic on August 3rd (60 girls) and a Melbourne City Girls School Holiday Clinic on October 3rd (50 girls) We also hosted 2 x Football Victoria Go Girls Clinics (70 girls each) in July and September which provided opportunities for players as well as aspiring coaches and referees to gain accreditation. Thanks to all these organisations for partnering with us.

Facilities

In late 2017, works began on the Robinson Reserve Pavilion upgrade, jointly funded by the State Government, Darebin City Council and the Darebin Falcons and in June 2018, works stalled when the builder went into liquidation. Works finally began again at the start of 2019 and we were able to move into the new clubrooms at the beginning of July 2019.

The new facility is magnificent and provides our players with the changerooms, toilets, canteen and social space that we have been lacking over the past 10 years. We thank the State Government, the Darebin Council and Preston Druids for their involvement and funding of this project.

We also outgrew our home ground this year at A H Capp and Robinson Reserve and moved some training and games to additional venues. Two nights a week were on Oulton Reserve, thanks to West Preston.. We also shared Mott Reserve with the Northern Falcons and used it every Sunday throughout the season for junior games.

Fundraising events

We held two major fundraising events this year – a Women’s World Cup night where we screened the Australia vs Italy game at the Preston Shire Hall which raised \$1500 – and the Soccer Trivia Night where we raised almost \$3000. Funds from these two events went to the fit out of the new soccer clubrooms.

In addition we held a couple of small raffles (Mother’s Day and Father’s Day) and ran the canteen and BBQ each week. The new clubrooms have significantly increased the opportunity to raise funds and we made approx \$12,000 this year, up from \$8000 in 2018.

MiniRoos Kick Off Program

The MiniRoos Kick Off Program had more attendees than ever this year with 85 players registered. Thanks to all our amazing coaches who did such a brilliant job in creating a fun environment for these young girls to learn some skills, enjoy a round around and make some new friends.

On Sunday 11th August we hosted a Gala Day at our home ground for Boroondara Eagles, Kensington, Northern Falcons, Eltham Redbacks and Yarra Jets.

Despite a lot of mud it was a great day for the kids. We also had all the game day roles (coaches and game leaders) filled by our Under 12 and 14 players so it was great to see them show such wonderful leadership.

Additional Activities

Additional activities that junior soccer players had the opportunity to take part in included:

- Goal keeper training in March approx. 20 girls participated.
- In June & July our Under 9s, 10s and 11s celebrated the Women’s World Cup with a mini World Cup of their own.



- We had three teams attending the Boroondara Gala Day, July.
- Mother's Day MiniRoos Clinic included mothers, grandmothers, aunts & other special people in the activities.
- Fathers Day MiniRoos Kick Off included fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers and other special people in the activities.
- Presentation Day on September 15th where all the juniors were presented with a medal and certificate or a team photo poster.
- As part of Presentation Day we held our inaugural All-Start Game with players from under 12 up to seniors taking part to foster cross age-group interaction throughout the club.



As we all know, these things don't happen by themselves and it truly takes a village to run a community club. A huge thank you goes out to all our amazing coaches, team managers, referees, lines people and many others willing to volunteer. The junior committee and senior coordinators share a lot of the load. A huge thank you goes in particular to Maria Caruso who is an all-round superstar and, as well as all the regular things she does, held the fort for a month in my absence in June/July. Zoe Ellis, Jayne Crowley and Kirsty Althorp have also contributed enormously to the administration and organisation.

Junior Committee

Maria Caruso
Kirsty Althorp
Marina Colbasso
Tim Pyers

Mereki Nieman

Zoe Ellis
Jasmine Hirst
Jayne Crowley
Irene Brown

Coaching Committee

Michael Vampatella
Dave Nolan
Davide Codini
Jasmine Hirst

It's been a fantastic year on and off the field so thank you to all our wonderful players and their equally wonderful parents who bring them along each week. It's so rewarding to see how far their skills progress each year, how much fun they have and what wonderful leaders they become.

Junior Cricket Report 2019

Jasmine Hirst

Junior Soccer Coordinator & Vice President

For the first time since 2016, Darebin Falcons fielded a cricket team over the summer season of 2018/19.



However, unlike previous Falcons cricket teams which were all at senior level, the 2018/19 team was an Under 11 girls team entered in the NWMCA league.

This team of 6 players was coached by Anthony Sibillin and went from raw beginners to topping the league by the end of the season.

Other notable achievements included winning the trophy for best dressed team at the Halloween Round and taking part in a lap of Junction Oval during the opening

round of the WBBL season.

Training and games commenced for the 2019/20 season in October and the Falcons are fielding two teams this season in Under 11 (coached by Emma Sampson) and Under 13 (coached by Anthony Sibillin).



2019 Sponsors

Thank you once again to our amazing sponsors – our achievements would not be possible without you

A special thank you to our dedicated sponsors at Activ8me



And to our other whole of Club Sponsors

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- YMCA Australia
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- McKenzie Construction
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- Kearney Group
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- Modern Orthodontics Preston

And to our Falcons Academy Sponsors

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